

Is the Chequered Skipper butterfly *Carterocephalus palaemon* (Pallas) (Lep.: HesperIIDae) becoming bivoltine?

Whilst on holiday in the Italian Dolomites during September 2003 I observed a perfectly fresh specimen of *Carterocephalus palaemon*, and this was quickly followed by the sighting of another two, slightly worn, examples. The observations took place in a sheltered valley near the mountain hut Sangon, approximately 2 kilometres to the north of Selva, on 16 September 2003, at an altitude of 1,850 metres (6,069 feet). The weather was sunny and warm and the time about 14.30 hours.

The Collins Field Guide (*Butterflies of Britain & Europe*, 1997), cites this butterfly as being univoltine, with the flight period mid May to June at lower altitudes, and July at 1600 metres. I also consulted several European butterfly books in my library and the findings were the same and I have not been able to locate any references to this species flying in September. I can only conclude that, with global warming, this species could be moving towards being bivoltine in southern Europe.— TONY STEELE, 57 Westfield Road, Barnehurst, Kent DA7 6LR.

***Rivula sericealis* (Scop.) (Lep.: Noctuidae): Apparent substantial third generation in the Isle of Wight during 2003**

With reference to the note by B. K. West (*Ent. Rec.* **115**: 236 – 237) on an apparent substantial third generation of *Rivula sericealis* in north-west Kent, I can also report a third generation in late September and early October at Totland, Isle of Wight, in 2003. This species is very common here and I was taking them in ones & twos right up to 12 October. I made a special note of the lateness of this insect as I cannot remember taking it so late in the year in the past. It will be interesting to see whether this late generation continues in future years, in which case it could then be accounted for by global warming.— SAM KNILL-JONES, 1 Moorside, Moons Hill, Totland, Isle of Wight P039 OKU.

A sign of the times, or just an unusual year? Some records of extended flight periods or partial additional broods of moths in 2003 at Walditch, Dorset

Apart from the regular appearance of immigrant Lepidoptera throughout much of the autumn and into early December, a feature of 2003 at Walditch, Dorset, was the late or extended appearance of several species, some of these undoubtedly representing partial additional broods. On a very few occasions, species considered typical of late summer/autumn were seen alongside species perhaps more typical of winter, for example on 9 November when a Mottled Umber *Erranis defoliaria* was seen alongside a Large Yellow Underwing *Noctua pronuba*. It is perhaps also worth highlighting that the 125 watt m.v. Robinson trap, which was the source of the majority of the records below, is not run in an ideal situation, against a wall in a north-facing garden, the house being at the bottom of a north-facing slope.

The following table lists species with dates on which they appeared compared to published flight periods in recent standard works.